(a) whether naxals (banned PWG) looted about 1000 bags of rice, wheat and sugar from Chowdeshwari colony in Anatapur district of Andhra Pradesh on the 17th June, 2000;

(b) if so, whether stock points are not guarded; and

(c) the Government's policy to protect public properties?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYA SAGAR RAO): (a) As per available reports, CPML-People's War (PW) militants and their followers looted the civil supplied godown near Uravakonda (Anantapur district) on June 18, 2000 and carried away bags of subsidy rice, sugar and wheat.

(b) and (c) 'Public Order' and 'Police' are State subjects. In the circumstances, the concerned State Governments have to devise various measures and take concrete steps to curb left wing extremist activities in the State.

The Central Government shares intelligence inputs, provides para-military forces on need basis and also provides financial assistance for modernisation of State Police Forces and towards reimbursement of security related expenditure to the States affected by left wing extremism.

Greater Autonomy to J and K

1175. SHRI S. RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government stands for greater autonomy for J and K within the scope of Article 370 of the Constitution;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether Government are considering for regional autonomy for Jammu and Kashmir and Laddakh within the State; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYA SAGAR RAO): (a) to (c) The Government is committed to continuing its endeavour to evolve a broad consensus on the implementation of steps for wide-ranging devolution of powers to the States that leads to efficiency in administration, acceleration in development and the fullest realisation of the creative potential of all sections of our people. The Government is also of the firm conviction that national integration and devolution of powers to States must go together.

(d) and (e) The issue of giving more autonomy to the three regions, within the State, is the concern of Government of Jammu and Kashmir. Government of India has not received any such proposal from the State Government.

Anti-media provisions in draft Anti-Terrorism Bill

1176. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the provisions of the draft Anti-Terrorism Bill prepared by the Law Commission are not anti-media and the Bill would be enacted only if there is wide consensus in its favour;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Government would convene a meeting with media for the purpose before enacting the Bill; and

(c) if so, by when such a meeting is expected?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYA SAGAR RAO): (a) to (c) The Draft Prevention of Terrorism Bill, 2000 prepared by the Law Commission contains provisions by which a duty is cast on every person to disclose information relating to commission of, or intention of commission of an offence defined under the Bill by any person. Similar provisions also exist in the Indian Penal code 1860 and the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973. As such the draft Prevention of